frances wolfeston her booke

THE BOOKE O MERRIE *Riddles.*

Together with proper Queſtions, and witty Prouerbs, to make *pleaſant paſtime.*

No leſſe vſefull then behoouefull, for *any young man or childe, to knowe* whether he be quicke-witted or no.

LONDON
Printed for *Roger Iackſon*, and are to bee ſold at his ſhop neere Fleet-ſtreet Conduit. 1617.

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Heere beginneth the first Riddle.

TWo legges sate vpon t legges, and had one legge her hand, then in came foure legges and bare away one leg, then vp start two legs, and threw three legs at foure legs, and brought one legge againe.

Solution.

That is a woman with two legs, that sate on a stoole with three legges, and had a legge of mutton in her hand, then came a dogge which hath foure legges, and bare away the legge of mutton, then vp start the woman and threw the stoole with three legges, at the dogge with foure legges, and brought the legge of mutton againe.

The 2. Riddle.

He went to the wood and caught it,
He sate him downe and sought it,
Because he could not find it,
He brought it home with him.

Solution.

thorne, for a man went to the caught a thorne in his foot, and e him downe, and sought to haue out, and because he could not finde he must needs bring it home.

The 3. Riddle.

: worke is that, the faster yee worke, ager it is ere yee haue done, and the er ye worke, the sooner ye make an end.

Solution.

That is turning of a spit: for if ye turne fast, it will be long ere the meat be enough, if yee turne slowly, it will be the sooner enough.

The 4. Riddle.

What is that that shineth bright al day, and at night is raked vp in his owne dirt.

Solution.

That is the fire, that burneth cleere all the day, and at night is raked vp in his ashes.

The 5. Riddle.

I haue a tree of great honour,
Which tree beareth both fruit and flower,
Twelue branches this tree hath nake,
Fifty nests therein be make,
And euery nest hath birds seuen,
Thanked be the King of heauen:
And euerie bird hath a diuerse name,

How

How may all this together frame?

Solution.

That tree is the yeere, the twelue branches, the twelue moneths, the fiftie two nests, bee the fiftie two weekes, the seuen birds, be the seuen dayes in the weeke, whereof euery one hath a diuerse name.

The 6. Riddle.

What is that, that is rough within, and red without, and bristled like a beares snowt: there is neuer a Lady in this land, but will be content to take it in her hand.

Solution.

That is an Eglantine berrie, for that is rough within, and redde without, and hath bristles on the top.

The 7. Riddle.

What Kings, Queenes, and their seruants be they, that bee burnt once a yeere, and bee cut and torne as small as flesh to the pot.

Solution.

Those bee the Kings and Queenes and barlets among the cards, that be some burned, and some torne, and some cut.

The 8. Riddle.

What is that, that hath his belly ful of mans meat, and his mouth full of dirt.

Solution.

It is an Quen when it is full of bread, or pies, for that is mans meat, and the Quens mouth is then closed with dirt.

The 9. Riddle.

What is that that hath a beard of flesh, a mouth of horne, and fæt like a Gryffon.

Solution.

That is a Cocke, for his beard is flesh, his bill horne, and his feet like a Gryffon.

The 10. Riddle.

What is that, the more ye lay on, the faster it wasteth.

Solution.

That is a Whetstone, for the more yée whet the lesse is the whetstone.

The 11. Riddle.

Of what facultie be they, that euerie night turne the skins of dead beasts.

Solution.

Those be the religious persons, for euery night at Mattens, they turne the leaues of their Parchment bookes, that bee made of shæpe skinnes, or calues skinnes.

The 12. Riddle.

Two blacke,
Leapt ouer the lake,
With their mouths full of mans bones.

So-

Solution.

That is a paire of shoes on a mans fæte, when a man leapeth ouer a lake, for they bee blacke, and they are within full of mans flesh and bones.

The 13. Riddle.

Three prisoners such as it was,
Were shut vp in a prison of glasse,
The prison doore was made of bread,
And yet they were for hunger dead.

Solution.

Those were thræ flies that were shut vp in a Glasse, and the mouth of it stopped with a pæce of bread.

The 14. Riddle.

Little boy hunting,
Sate on the house easing,
With a bow and a bolt,
Slaieth the king and all his folke.

Solution.

That is death, which slaieth Kings, Princes, Dukes, Earles, Gentlemen, and euery liuing creature.

The 15. Riddle.

Yonder side sea is there a bote,
The kings daughter of England, there shæ sate:
And if ye tell me her name, no man it wot,

What

What was the maids name that sate in the bote?

Solution.

Her name is Anne, for in the fourth line it saith, An if ye tell be her name: but this riddle is not to bee seene on the booke, but it is to bee put without the booke, or else it shall sone be vnderstood.

The 16. Riddle.

M. and I. made great mone,
When C. vpon C. was left alone.

Solution.

That is Marie and John made great mone,
When Christ on a Crosse was left alone.
For Marie beginneth with M: John beginneth with I, Christ beginneth with C, and Crosse beginneth with C. Also this riddle may be put another way, and that is this. A thousand and one made great mone, when a hundred on a hundred was left alone. For M, is for a thousand, and I, is for one, and C, for a hundred, and then is M. for Mary, I. for John, C. for Christ, and then is the riddle very defuse.

The 17. Riddle.

Who bare the best burthen that euer was borne, at any time since, or any time before.

So-

Solution.

It was the Asse that bare both our Lady and her sonne out of Egypt.

The 18. Riddle.

What is the most profitable beast, and that men eat least on.

Solution.

It is a Bee, for it maketh both hony and war, and costeth his master nothing the keeping.

The 19 Riddle.

I am without it, and yet I haue it,
Tell me what it is, I pray God saue it.

Solution.

It is my heart, for I am without it, insomuch that it is within mee, for yee may not vnderstand by the riddle that I lacke it.

The 20. Riddle.

What is that is like a mede,
And is not past a handfull brede,
And hath a voyce like a man,
You will tell me this, but I wot not whan.

Solution.

It is a little Popingay, for it is greene like a mede, and is not past a handfull brede, and it speaketh like a man.

The 21. Riddle.

L. and V. and C. and I.

So

So height my Lady at the font stone:

Solution.

Her name is Lucy, for in the first line is L. V. C. I. which is Lucy: but this riddle must bee put and read thus, fifty and fiue, a hundred and one: then is the riddle very proper, for L. standeth for fifty, and V. for fiue, C. for a hundred, and I. for one.

The 22. Riddle.

What is that one seeketh for, and would not finde?

Solution.

That is, a hole in his shooe, or a peece of pilgrims salue on a seege bord, when hee commeth darklong in the night.

The 23. Riddle.

What is that I wish for, and would not haue?

Solution.

That is heauen, for many a man wisheth that hee were in heauen: and though they knew sure that they should goe thither straitwaies, yet would they bee loth to die and goe thither: And this riddle may be soyled another way, as when a man or woman doth say, a vengeance and a pestilence on her childe, or on her seruants, or wisheth them dead, yet would she be loth it were so.

Mary

Mary percase if some woman wish such a wish to her husband, then peraduenture this riddle could not thereby be assoyled.

The 24. Riddle.

What is that as high as hall, as bitter as gall, as soft as silke, as white as milke?

Solution.

That is a walnut, for it groweth as hie as a hall, and the shell is as bitter as gall, and the rinde that couereth the kernell, is as soft as silke, and the kernell is as white as milke.

The 25. Riddle.

What was hee that slew the fourth part of the world.

Solution.

That was Cain, when he slew his brother Abel, for then there were no more persons in the world but foure, that is to say, Adam, Eue, Cain and Abel.

The 26. Riddle.

What three heads be they that vphold the world?

Solution.

Those bee, the hammer head, the plough head, and the head that multiplieth the world.

The 27. Riddle.

What man is he that getteth his liuing backward?

So-

Solution.

That is a Ropemaker, for as hee maketh his Ropes, he goeth alwayes backward.

The 28. Riddle.

Fiue brethren were bred at once,
Without any flesh, bloud, or bones,
Two haue beards, and two haue none,
The fift hath but halfe a one.

Solution.

The fiue brethren, be 5. greene barbes vnder the rose leaues, which spring all at once, and two of them haue bristles like beardes on the edges and the other two haue none, but they be plaine on the edges, and the fift is bristled or bearded on the one side, and plain on the other.

The 29. Riddle.

What is he that goeth to the water, and leaueth his guts at home.

Solution.

That is a pillowbere, for when it goeth to washing, the pillow and the feathers bee left at home.

The 30. Riddle.

What is hee that goeth to the water on his head.

Solution.

That is a horseshoe naile, for the head is downeward.

The

The 31. Riddle.

What is that that goeth to the water, and the first that toucheth the water is his arse.

Solution,

That is a bucket in a well, or a payle.

The 32. Riddle.

What be they that be all day full, and empty at night.

Solution.

It is a paire of shoes, for all day they be full with mans feet, and at night when he goes to bed, they be empty: and it may bee assoyled by any other part of mans raiment.

The 33. Riddle.

Who is hee that eateth his mother in his grandams belly?

Solution.

It is a worme in a nut, for of the kernell of the nut commeth the worme, therefore the kernell is heere taken for the mother of the worme: and of the shel the kernel commeth: and therefore the shell is heere taken for the mother of the kernell, and the grandame of the worme.

The 34. Riddle.

Who is he that runneth through the hedge, and his house on his backe?

So-

Solution.

That is a snaile, which whereſoeuer he goeth, he carrieth his houſe on his backe.

The 35. Riddle.

To what poore man is a mans almes worſt beſtowed.

Solution.

That is a blind man, for hee would with a good will ſée him hanged that giueth him the almes.

The 36. Riddle.

What folke be they that loue not to be prayed for.

Solution.

Thoſe be beggers and poore folk, when men ſay, I pray God helpe you.

The 37. Riddle.

Ten mens ſtrength, and ten mens length, and tenne men cannot ſet it on end, what is that?

Solution.

That is a great roape or cable, of ten fadome in length or more, which ten men cannot ſet on end, nor ten ſcore, nor ten thouſand.

The 38. Riddle.

I gathered apples in a garden, and ere I could get out, I payd tole for them at three gates. At the firſt gate I paid halfe the apples

ples that I had gathered, and one more, and at the next gate I paid halfe the apples that I had left, and one more, and at the third gate I paid halfe the apples that I had left, and one more, and when I came out I had but one apple left: tell mee now how many apples I gathered in all.

Solution.

Hee gathered in all xvii. apples, for at the first gate he paid a vi. that was halfe, and one more, that was xii. so he had left ten, then at the second gate he paid five, that was halfe, and one more, that was five, so had hee left foure, and at the last gate hee paid two, that was halfe, and one more, that was iii. and so he had one left.

The 39. Riddle.

Garden waies, comfort of flowers,
to hight my Lady, what hight yours?

Solution.

Her name is Alison, for the waies in the gardens be called Allis, and the sunne is the comfort to all flowers, & so put them two together, and that maketh Alison.

The 40 Riddle.

The Deare complaines and mones,
The Heron feeding in her place,
This is the name of my Ladies grace.

Solution.

Her name is Brayb?wk, for when the Deare complaines, hunters say he b?ayeth, & the place of a Heron is a b?wke, & then put them two together, and that makes Brayb?wke. But this riddle was made by some Gentleman for his Ladies pleasure, and is neither proper for euery man, nor easie to be assoiled

The 41. Riddle.

What is that standeth on this side the wood, and loketh ouer the wood.

Solution.

That is a Sow, that hath a yoke about her necke, for her féete bee on this side the wood, and her head is ouer the wood.

The 42. Riddle.

What is that goeth to the wood, and his head homeward.

Solution.

It is an are hanging vpon a mans backe, when he goeth to the wood.

The 43. Riddle.

What is that goeth to the wood, and carrieth his way on his necke.

Solution.

It is a man that goeth to the wood to fell boughes, and carrieth a ladder on his necke to get vppe.

The

The 44. Riddle.

I came to a tréé where were apples, I eat no apples, I gaue away no apples, nor I left no apples behinde mee. And yet I eat, gaue away, and left behinde me.

Solution.

There were thrée apples on the tréé, for I eat one apple, and gaue away one apple, and left one. And then I eate no apples, for I eate but one apple, which is no apples, and thus I gaue away no apples, for I gaue but one, and thus I left no apples, for I left but one.

The 45. Riddle.

What is that as small as a nit, and serues the king at euery bit.

Solution.

It is salt.

The 46. Riddle.

There is a water that I must passe,
The broadest water that euer was,
And yet of all waters that euer I sée,
To passe it ouer is least ieopardy.

Solution.

It is the dew, for that lieth ouer all the world.

The 47. Riddle.

What is that, the more it is, the lesse men

feare it, and the lesse it is, the more men dread it.

Solution.

It is a bridge, for if it be little, we are afraid to go ouer it for falling, and if it be bigge, we feare no more to goe ouer it, then on the ground.

The 48 Riddle.

I bought a brace of hounds for my Lordes grace, and when I departed from his place, I neither left them there, nor toke them with mee, this maruellous thing how may it bee.

Solution.

I left one of the greyhounds there, and tok the other with mee, so then I neither left them there, nor toke them with me.

The 49. Riddle.

Here I haue it, and yonder I sée it.

Solution.

It is my breath in a mistie morning, for héere I haue it at my mouth, and yonder I see it a yard from me.

The 50. Riddle.

What is that is higher then a hall, or a house and it séemes much lesser then a mouse.

Solution.

It is a starre in the skie.

The 51. Riddle.

My Louers will,
I am content for to fulfill,
Within this rime his name is framed,
Tell me then how he is named.

Solution.

His name is William, for in the first line is will, and in the beginning of the second line is, I am, and then put them both together, and that maketh William.

The 52. Riddle.

What is that, that is as white as snow,
And yet as blacke as any crow,
And more pliant then a wand,
And is tied in a silken band,
And euery day a Princes péere,
Loketh vpon it with a sad chéere.

Solution.

It is a booke tied within a silken lace, for the paper of it is as white as snow, and the inke is as blacke as a crow, and the leaues bee more pliant then a wand.

The 53. Riddle.

What space is it from the highest of the sea to the bottom. Solution.

It is but a stones cast, for bee the sea neuer so déepe, a stone if it be cast in, will reach to the bottome.

The 54. Riddle.

How many calues tailes will reach to the skie.

Solution.

One if it be long enough.

The 55. Riddle.

Mary an Christ loued very well,
My Ladies name heere I do tell,
Yet is her name neither Christ nor mary,
Tell me her name then, and doe not tarry.

Solution.

Her name is Maryan, for in the beginning it is said, Mary an Christ, but this riddle is to be put without the booke, and not be read, or else it will soone be perceiued.

The 56. Riddle.

What is that as white as milke,
As soft as silke,
As blacke as a coale,
And hoppeth in the street like a steeds sole.

Solution.

That is a Pie, that hoppeth in the street, for part of his feathers bee white, and part bee blacke.

The 57. Riddle.

What is that goeth about the wood, and cannot get in.

Solution

will not lie in a great cheſt.

Solution.

It is a long Speare.

The 65. Riddle.

What is that as round as a ball,
Longer then Pauls ſteeple, weather-cocke and all.

Solution.

It is a round bottome of threed, which when it is vndone, it is much longer then Pauls ſteeple.

The 66. Riddle.

Downe in the medow haue I two ſwine, the more meat I giue them, the lowder they cry, the leſſe meat I giue them the ſtiller they be.

Solution.

Theſe bee two milſtones, which the more they grinde, the more noiſe they make, and they be called ſwins heere, becauſe ſwine bee fed with corne, and ſo be they.

The 67. Riddle.

What is that, that goeth through the wood, and toucheth neuer a twig.

Solution.

It is the blaſt of a horne, or the cry of a beaſt, or ſuch other.

The 68. Riddle.

What is that, that hath fiue legges on

one

one ſide, and three on the other.
Three heads and ſix eares, and two things like my mother.
And yet ſuch another thing as hath my brother.

Solution.

That is a man and a woman vpon a mares backe.

The 69. Riddle.

Beyond the ſea there is an oake,
And in that oake there is a neſt,
And in that neſt there is an egge,
And in that egge there is a yolke,
That calleth together Chriſtian folke.

Solution.

It is a clapper in a bell, within a ſteeple, for the Church is taken for the oake, the ſteeple is taken for the neſt, the bell is taken for the egge, and the clapper is taken for the yolke.

The 70. Riddle.

Downe in a dale there ſits and ſtands,
Eight legges and two hands,
Liuers and Lights, and liues three,
I count him wiſe that tels this to me.

Solution.

It is a man riding on horſebacke, and hauing a hauke ſitting on his hand.

The

The 71. Riddle.

Walking abroad to take the aire,
I met two Ladies bright and faire,
Two pretty boyes by the hands they led,
And thus vnto them both I said:
O ye faire Ladies I pray you tell me,
By nature and kind whose children these be.

Their answere.

Gentleman, if yee will the truth knowe plaine,
The sonnes of our sonnes they be certaine:
Brothers to our husbands they be ywis,
And truly each of them to the other vncle is.
Begotten and borne in wedlocke they be,
And we are their mothers we tell you truly.

Solution.

These two Gentlewomen had two sonnes, the one Thomas, and the other William: Thomas married Williams mother, and William married Thomas his mother, and either of them had a sonne by their wiues, which sonnes must nœdes bee the sonnes of their sonnes, brothers to their husbands, the one vncle to the other, and they their lawfull mothers.

The 72. Riddle.

Ouer a water I must passe, and I must carry

ry ouer a lambe, a wolfe, and a bottle of hay, if I carry any more then one at once, my boate will sinke: if I carry ouer the bottle of hay first, and leaue the lambe and the wolfe together, the wolfe will carry my lambe away, if I carry ouer the wolfe first, the lambe will eate my bottle of hay. Now would I know how I should carry them ouer, so that I leaue not the lambe with the wolfe, nor the bottle of hay with the lambe on neither side.

Solution.

First carry ouer the lambe, and then come againe and fetch the wolfe, and bring the lambe back again on the other side, and then take the bottle of hay and carry it, and then fetch ouer the lambe, and so the question is assoyled.

The 73. Riddle.

There were two fathers a hunting went,
And their two sonnes for the same intent.
They caught conies in all but three:
And euery one had one, how may that be?

Solution.

One of the sonnes, had a sonne, thus hee is father, and standeth both for the father and the sonne.

The 74. Riddle.

I consume my mother that bare me, I eate my nurse that fedde mee, then I die leauing them all blind that saw me.

Solution.

Meant of the flame of a candle, which when it hath consumed both wax & weeke goeth out, leauing them in the darke which saw by it.

The 75. Riddle.

As long as I liue, I eate, but when I drinke I die.

Solution.

That is the fire, which continueth so long as it hath matter to burne vpon, except it be quenched with water, which may be termed the death of that nature.

The 76. Riddle.

Ten thousand children beautifull
of this my body bred:
Both sonnes and daughters finely deckt,
I liue and they are dead:
My sonnes were put to extreame death.
by such as loued them well:
My daughters died in extreame age,
but where I cannot tell.

Solution.

That is a tree, which signifieth the mother, the fruite the sonnes, and the leaues the daughters.

The

LOng time ſince, when men eat butterd peaſon with a ſpoone,
I had a man vnto my father, borne vnder the moone.
His name was Tom Gooſe, this is true indeede,
When he could liue no longer he fell ſicke and dyed.
And within foure dayes after, when he was layd in graue,
My mother would needes another husband haue.
The more husbands the better lucke, ſome wiues do ſay the ſame,
And then married ſhe one, Dick Duck was by his name.
A widdoer he was, and had a daughter called Ione,
She was a merry one, and a minion minſer alone:
She was my ſiſter and I was her brother,
By law it was ſo, it could be none other.
And my mother did loue him as the turtle Doue,
Yet at length my father died for loue.
Then ſaid my mother, though I haue two husbands wed,
I muſt liue dy the quicke (quoth ſhe) and not by the dead.
Yet was ſhe tough and toothleſſe, ſhort tale to make,
And married the third husband, called Iohn Drake.
He loued her right well, and had his owne wiſhing,
For within ten dayes he killed her with kiſſing.
Then would he haue a yong woman to lengthen his life,
And fell in with my ſiſter Ione, and tooke her to wife.
After that I could not chuſe, though before I was her brother,
But iuſtly as became me, I called her mother.
At length he was iealous, and ſhe perceiued his blindneſſe,
Where vpon within a few dayes ſhe killed him with kindneſſe.
After he was dead, then did my mother Duck,
Take me to her husband, me thought I had ſtrange luck.
Becauſe firſt ſhe was my ſiſter Ione, and I, Iohn her brother,
And after Iohn her ſonne, and ſhe Ione my mother;
Now am I Iohn her husband, and ſhe Ione my wife,
We Iohn Gooſe and Ione Duck, together muſt lead our life.

¶ Now if you haue well marked,
Vnto you I haue tolde;
How this demand is true,
Therefore you may be bold.

Proper Questions.

The first Question.

I Bought three penny-worth of Egs lately,
and for euery penny had like many:
And after gaue them in almes a-none
vnto three Beggars euery each one,
Vnto the Beggar that asked my first,
the second had twice so many iust:
The third Beggar that there I found,
had twice as many as the second.
Now answere me to this question shortly,
how many Egges had I for a penny?
And how many Egges after the rate,
that euery Beggar had for his part?

Solution.

I bought seuen Egges for euery penny, & the first Beggar had three Egges, the second six Egs, & the third beggar had twelue Egs.

The second Question.

Two men that had in their purses mony,
the one to the other thus can say:
Put one of thy pence of thy purse in mine,
then is in my purse as much as in thine.
Nay said the other, I pray thee do thus,

put

put one of thy pence into my purſe,
Then haue I double as much as thou:
What was in both their purſes ſay ye?

Solution.

The one of them had fiue pence in his purſe & the other had ſeuen pence in his purſe, and ſo the queſtion is aſſoyled. But if yee make the queſtion, take alwayes two pence, then the numbers muſt be ten, & xiiii. or iii d. xv. & one and twentie, and ſo alway proceéd forth.

The third Queſtion.

A Fiſher an hundred of herrings did buy,
after the rate of two for a penny:
And bought an hundred in another place,
three for a penny neither more nor leſſe:
He put them together, and ſold anone,
ſtill fiue for two pence till all were gone:
Now in that bargaine I thinke that he,
Either won or loſt, How ſay you:

Solution.

Account euer fiue ſcore to the hundred, and reckon then, and ye ſhall finde that hee hath loſt thereby, euen foure pence.

The fourth Queſtion.

ANother queſtion I would faine deſire,
I wedded thy mother, & thou wedded'ſt mine:
By my wife I had a ſon ſone after, (thine:
& thou vpon thy wife begatteſt a daughter.

This

This question now tame would I knew of
What kin together these Children be. (thee

Solution.

The Sonne was Uncle to the Daughter, because that her brother was his Father: also, the Daughter was Aunt to the Sonne, because her brother was his Father.

The fifth Question.

I knew a maide that once did pray,
a man to lend her some money,
Which swore by God, and by Saint John,
that to that maide he would lend none:
Yet for all that, ere that he went thence,
he saued his oth, & lent her twelue pence.

Solution.

This man lay with the maide first, and so she lost her maiden-head: and afterwards he lent her twelue pence.

The sixth Question.

A Batcheler came a mans wife vntill,
praying her his carnall lust to fulfill:
She sware a great oath as touching that sin,
She would neuer offend with him therein.
She kept her oath so vndefiled,
that soone after he got her with childe.

Solution.

The wiues husband dyed first, and after that, the Batcheler married her lawfully,

and with her then he had carnall copulation.

The seuenth Question:

I Knew a man which in his life,
begat a childe vpon his owne wife,
And when it was borne, his heart was done,
he looked vpon it, it was not his Sonne:
Of this now tell me the true solution.

Solution.

The child that he begot vpon his wife was a daughter.

The eight Question.

A Man would haue slaine his son hastily,
But one counselled him the contrary:
To slay thy sonne it is well done,
to dread and feare nothing:
For such a deed thou shalt haue meede
of Christ our heauenly King.

The ninth Question.

A Payre of Gloues a man once bought,
and them to three sisters brought,
And said, Cast lots, for some of you three,
shall weare these Gloues for loue of me.
How might his saying be verified there,
Yet none of them all did them weare?

Solution.

The one of the Sisters ware the one glone,
and one of the other Sisters ware the other.

The

The tenth Question.

A Soldier that to black-heath field went,
Prayed an Astronomer of his iudgemẽt:
Which wrote these word to him plainely,
thou shalt goe thither well and safely:
And from thence come whom alive againe,
neuer at that field shalt thou be slaine.
The souldier was slaine there at that field,
And yet the Astronomer his promise held.

Solution.

The poynting of the words, is the solution, as thus: Thou shalt go thither wel and safely, and from thence come home againe a-liue neuer; at that field shalt thou be slaine.

The eleuenth Question

IN Esser I know a place right well,
where men buy Dysters by the Bushell:
For euery Bushell foure pence they pay,
and yet for all that, the buyers may
For two pence a Bushell sell them againe,
all by one measure, and yet haue good gain.

Solution.

They buy these Dysters when they be very small, and keepe them in creekes of the salt water a yeere or two, till they be great, and then one Bushell will make sixe Bushels.

The twelfth Question.

I know a childe borne by my mother,
Naturally borne as other children be:
That is neither my sister, nor my brother:
answere me shortly what is he:

Solution.

It is the person that speaketh the word: for he is neither brother nor sister to himselfe.

The thirteenth Question.

A Vessell of wine here standeth me by,
of eight gallons iust full by the eye:
An other of fiue gallons, an other of three:
but those twaine both empty be,
Nete by three gallons of this wine truly,
and thereto none other vessell to occupy.

Solution.

First fill the fiue gallon vessel full, & then with that fill the three gallon vessell full then, and there remaineth in the fifth gallon vessel two gallons: then put the three gallons that bee in the three gallon vessell, into the eight gallon vessell, into the fiue gallon vessell, and then fill vp the 3. gallon vessell, with the fiue gallon vessell, and it will receiue but one gallon thereof, because there was in the three gallon vessell before, but two gallons, and so there will remaine in the fiue gallon vessell, iust foure gallons, and then you haue

your

your purpose: that is to say, foure gallons mete truely by those three measures onely.

The fourteenth Question.

A Fish was late taken others among,
which had a head of three fot long:
And the taile was as long truely,
as the head and halfe the body:
And yet was the body without faile,
as long as the head and the taile.
This question heere I pray thee tell,
How long was the Fish heere euery deale.

Solution.

The taile of the Fish was nine fot long, and the body was twelue fot long: and because the head was three fot long, therefore the length of the whole Fish was fourteene fot long, and so the question is alloyled.

The fifteenth Question.

A Widdow with her horse and maide at Douer,
Prayd a Shipman into Fraunce to bring them ouer:
He swore y neither widow, horse, nor maide,
Should into Fraunce for him be conuaide.
How might his oth there saued be,
Yet hee brought them into Fraunce in his Ship all three.

Solution.

The widow was marryed, the mayde lost her mayden-head, and the horse was gelded: and then the Spip man carried them all ouer together in his Ship, and so saued his oath which he had taken before.

The sixteenth Question.

ONe saide, God spéd dame with thy Geese twantie,
Nay sir, said she, I haue not so many:
But if that I had as many mo
as I haue, and halfe as many thereto,
And ouer that halfe, halfe as many,
and two Geese & a half, then had I twenty.
How many Géese had she now truely?

Choice

Choice and wittie Prouerbs.

1 SO great is the ill that doth not hurt mee, as is the good that doth not help mee.

2 Hee that for the new, leaueth the olde way, oftentimes is found to goe astray.

3 Giuen is dead: and restored is nought.

4 Conceale not the truth from the Physician and Lawyer.

5 A young Barber and an olde Physician.

6 To looke for and not to come: To bee in bed, and not asleepe: To serue and not to be accepted, are three tedious things.

7 He that will not indure labour in this world, let him not be borne.

8 There is no vertue that pouertie destroyeth not.

9 The abundance of things ingendreth disdainefulnesse.

10 He that sitteth well, thinketh ill.

11 The mirth of the world dureth but a while.

12 He that vseth mee better then hee is wont, hath betrayed me, or will betray me.

13 He that doth not that which he ought, that haps to him which he neuer thought.

14 He that hath time, hath life.

15 Al weapons of war cannot arme fear.

16 He helpes little, that helpes not himselfe.

17 So much is mine, as I possesse; and, giue or lose for for Gods sake.

18 Chuse not a woman, nor linnen cloth by the candle.

19 Kinsman helpes kinsman: but woe be to him that hath nothing.

20 Honours alter Manners.

21 Hee knoweth enough that knoweth nought, if hee knoweth how to holde his peace.

22 A man assaulted is halfe taken.

23 Hee that is wise in his owne eyes, there is more hope of a foole than such a one.

24 Old sinne, new repentance.

25 Sin that is hidden, is halfe forgiuen.

26 An ounce of state, requires a pound of gold.

27 He

27 He that lines well, dies well.

28 Hee that indures hir; ouercommeth her.

29 Fly that present pleasure, which paines thee afterwards.

30 Euery extreamitie is a fault.

31 Euery question requireth not answere.

32 Patience is sorrowes remedy.

33 Conscience serues for a thousand witnesses.

34 Nature is the true law.

35 All feare is bondage.

36 Things present are iudged by things past.

37 That is well done, which is done soone inough.

38 There is a remedy for all dolors, saning for death.

39 The Law groweth of sinne, and chastiseth it.

40 The like I say, sits with the Jay.

41 Birds of a feather flie together.

42 One man is worth a hundred, and a hundred are not worth one.

43 A wise man ought not to be ashamed to change his purpose.

44 Maruell is the daughter of Ignorance.

45 The

45 The deeds are manly, and the words womanly.

46 The more that riches is honoured, the more is vertue despised.

47 Time is the father of Truth, and experience is the mother of Science.

48 Hee that soweth vertue, reapeth fame.

49 Betimes in the Fishambles, and late in the Butchery.

50 To a good vnderstander, halfe a word is enough.

51 Flies goe to leane horses.

52 Hee that hath the world at will seemeth wise.

53 Prouide a Figge for thy friend; and a Peach for thy enemy.

54 The harts mirth, makes the face faire.

55 At mariages and burials, friends and kinsfolkes be knowne.

56 A deadly disease neither Physician nor physicke can ease.

57 The loue of a harlot, and wine of a flagon, is good in the morning, and naught in the euening.

58 An Asse pricked must needs trot.

59 Hee daunceth well enough, to whom fortune pipeth.

60 Hee gaineth enough, whom fortune loseth.

61 A dead Bée maketh no hony.

62 By one, and one, the spindles are made vp.

63 Faire words, and wicked déedes, deceiue wise men and fooles.

64 Ill goes the Boat without Oares.

65 An old hand, is a Captaines honour.

66 A Barking dog seldome bites.

67 An old dog barkes not in vaine.

68 A running horse; an open graue.

69 A faire shop and little gaine.

70 He that buyeth deere, and taketh vpon credit, shall euer sell to his losse.

71 A fire of straw yéeldes naught but smoake.

72 Hee that hunts two Hares, loseth both.

73 Hee that is in pouertie, is in suspicion.

74 Hee that hath a good Speare, let him trie him.

75 Hee that doeth nothing, doeth euer amisse.

76 Hee that doth amisse, may doe well.

77 He that doth ill hateth the light.

78 He that hath no heart, hath legges.

79 He

79 He that hath no wife beateth her often

80 He that hath no children, doth bring them vp well.

81 Hee that hath not serued, knoweth not how to command.

82 He that cannot beate the horse, beates the saddle.

83 He that doth not robbe, makes not a roabe or a gowne.

84 He that hurts another, hurts himselfe.

85 A common seruant, is no mans seruant.

86 Hee that serues harlots, a is slaue to sinne.

87 He that will haue all, loseth all.

88 He that goes to bed with dogs, arise with fleas.

89 He that goes to bed without his supper, is out of quiet all night.

90 Hee that goes and comes makes a good voyage.

91 Hee that lines in Court, dies vpon straw.

92 Speake no ill of another, till thou thinkest of thy selfe.

93 One crow neuer puls out anothers eyes.

94 From

94 From words to deed is a great spce.

95 Folly is wise in her owne eyes.

96 Yard with yard neuer made good wall.

97 Faire speech subdueth anger.

98 It is a goodly thing to take two Pigeons with one Beane.

99 Faire gayning, makes faire spending.

100 Mischiefe comes by pounds, and goes away by ounces.

101 Marriners craft is the grossest, yet of handy crafts the subtillest.

102 He whose belly is full, beleeues not him that is fasting.

103 The Peach will haue wine, the Fig water.

104 Fish marreth the water, and flesh amends it.

105 He promises mountaines, and performes mole-hils.

106 Promising is the vigil of giuing.

107 More then enough breakes the Couer.

108 Sparing is the first gaining.

109 Wine by the sauour, bread by the colour.

110 Experience is somtimes dangerous.

111 Make

111 Make mee a diuinour, and I will make thee rich.

112 Friars obseruants spare their one, and eate other mens.

113 A gloued cat can catch no mice.

114 A broken bagge can hold no meale.

115 If thou wilt come with me, bring with thee.

116 Offices may well be giuen, but discretion.

117 Suffer the ill, and looke for the good.

118 In the world their bee men that will haue the egge, and the hen.

119 Aboue God there is no Lord.

120 Aboue blacke there is no colour, and aboue salt their is no sauour.

121 If it were not for hope the heart would breake.

122 Cut off a dogs taile, hee will bee a dogge still.

123 Naught is that Muse that findes no excuse.

124 Nought are those houses where the Hen crowes, and the Cock holds his peace.

125 He is in ill case that giues example to another.

126 Too much hope deceiueth.

127 All draw water to their own mill.

128 Venice

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